(e) No, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir. Under Swadhar Scheme, the Government has instructed that mentally challenged, the trafficked women and the HIV/AIDS victims may be segregated in separate enclosures which would not only lead to better management of the Swadhar Shelter Home but also help the management to take proper care of the mentally challenged and HIV/AIDS victims.

Making SSC exam optional

†2024. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from NCERT regarding making the examination of SSC optional;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are considering to implement this proposal;

(c) whether Government are considering to make the existing examination for tenth class optional and make it mandatory for all States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

School drop-out rates

2025. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether school drop-out rate has considerably come down in Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh and different States and Union Territories during the last three years;

(b) if so, the comparative drop-out rates for boys and girls in different States and UTs during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the special Central aid, if any, given to the different States to achieve this object?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) State/UT wise, gender-wise drop-out rates for 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are at Statement I, II & III (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.